



WHO USES DATA FROM THE NEW DAWN?

Fact Sheet #4

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WHAT

DAWN is a public health surveillance system that collects data on drug related visits to hospital EDs and on drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners and coroners (ME/Cs). Since 2003, DAWN has been tracking *all* types of drug-related ED visits and deaths. In addition to illegal drug use, DAWN collects cases related to **adverse reactions** to OTC and prescription medications, **overmedication**, **accidental ingestions**, **malicious poisonings**, **suicide attempts**, and **underage alcohol use**.

WHO

New DAWN data are used by diverse audiences in government and the private sector for public health planning, policy, and program development; obtaining grant support to address local drug-related problems; and to improve patient care and allocation of resources in participating hospitals. DAWN provides a picture of the impact of drug use, misuse and abuse on metropolitan areas and across the Nation. The primary users are listed below:

Federal Agencies

- **The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)** uses DAWN to assess progress and pinpoint problems in controlling drug abuse in the U.S. For example, ONDCP looked to DAWN for trends in prescription drug abuse, particularly pain relievers and anti-anxiety drugs, before announcing a new initiative to address prescription drug abuse. DAWN is an essential component of ONDCP's 25-Cities Initiative, which is aimed at developing coordinated local efforts to understand and respond to drug abuse.

- **The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has used DAWN data for many years to assess the abuse potential of prescription drugs and assist in making decisions on scheduling and labeling. In September 2003, an FDA Advisory Committee reviewed DAWN findings on the abuse of five prescription pain relievers—oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, fentanyl, and morphine—to advise the FDA on how to better control the abuse of sustained-release opioids. Now, the FDA uses data from the New DAWN for post-marketing surveillance to identify adverse reactions and other health consequences of prescription drugs approved for the market.
- **The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, the Federal agency that sponsors DAWN, uses DAWN data to monitor changing patterns of drug abuse, and to monitor buprenorphine, a new treatment for opiate addiction that is regulated by SAMHSA.

Communities

- New DAWN reports on potential public health problems for the metropolitan area, including, for example, *underage drinking among youth, adverse reactions to medications in the elderly, accidental poisonings among young children, misuse of prescription drugs by all ages*. DAWN can help local organizations assess the need for public health resources and detect emerging drug problems before they become widespread. Recently, a public health department on the West Coast used DAWN data to assess the linkage between methamphetamine abuse and a recent increase in syphilis.

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Member Hospitals and Medical Examiners/Coroners

- DAWN provides members immediate access to their own data through **DAWN LIVE!**—a secure Internet-based system. With these data, EDs and ME/Cs can educate the community and work with public health authorities to address problems related to the use of drugs.

Patient care and safety. Physicians, nurses, and other hospital staff can use DAWN LIVE! to monitor drug-related cases seen in their ED, recognize sentinel events, and increase staff training in response to such cases.

Management. Hospital managers can use their DAWN data to help allocate resources and staffing to respond to changing caseloads.

Private Sector

- Pharmaceutical firms use DAWN data to track the use, misuse, and abuse of their products. Increasingly, the FDA is requiring pharmaceutical firms to consider DAWN in their post-marketing surveillance strategies.

For more information. DAWN information is available in publications and online at the DAWN website at **<http://DAWNinfo.samhsa.gov>**. To learn more about joining the New DAWN, contact the Facility Relations staff at **800-FYI-DAWN** and the Website.